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University of Massachusetts at Boston

the Spectator

Vol. II, No. 8

March 21, 1979

The State of the University

Gross distortions in a Boston Globe, March 7, article regarding accreditation of the UMass/Boston campus have dismayed and angered faculty, staff, students, parents and friends of the university.

Chancellor Claire Van Ummersen, in a message to the University community, says "There was never any question that the academic programs on this campus in all three colleges are of high quality and that accreditation would, of course, be renewed."

What is implied in the Globe article and what is stated in the Accreditation Report are 180 degrees apart.

Some Accreditation highlights, mentioned in the Chancellor's message:

1. UMB's..."potential is great; its achievements are substantiated; and its problems and needs are not unmanageable."
2. "Academic offerings [in CAS] represent a well-planned spectrum of quality, depth and breadth."
3. "The team commends the program [of academic support]."
4. "UMB is fortunate to have a highly qualified faculty; faculty vitae, in general, are impressive and indicate sound scholarship and extensive experience."
5. "Individual faculty-student contacts are frequent and constructive."
6. "The college recognize[s] the problem [of faculty expertise and student needs] and is moving toward a solution. Two promising developments are (1) the core curriculum and (2) the skills instruction program... The [core] program appears to have considerable potential for meeting the needs of students and addressing some of the problems mentioned above."
7. "The University of Massachusetts at Boston is a good urban university... It has a highly qualified faculty, and in general, a high level academic program... The University of Massachusetts at Boston can become a great urban university."

The Globe article, a disservice to public higher education at UMass/Boston, neither reflected the opportunities for access nor the excellence of education at this campus.

Chancellor Search

Prof. Steven Schwartz, Chairman of the Chancellor Search Committee, announces a series of campus interviews for finalists in the search process that began in November.

The first interview was held Monday, March 19th, with Robert Corrigan, Provost for Arts and Humanities, College Park Campus of the University of Maryland.

Two interviews will be held this week for the campus community at the Chancellor's Conference Room, third floor, Administration Building, between 12:45 and 1:45.

On Thursday being interviewed will be Dr. Robert Dentler, Dean of Education, Boston University. On Friday the interview will be with Dr. Janet Travis, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost of Northern Kentucky University.

Dr. Leonard Lief, President of Lehman College, New York, will be interviewed Monday, April 2.

Prof. Schwartz says four more finalists also will be on campus for interviews, and all eight candidates at this time are to be equally considered. Every faculty member should participate in these interviews, he said.

Anthems in New Tongues

The Extended Day Program is sponsoring a new lecture series -- "Massachusetts Cultural Heritage: Anthems in New Tongues" -- which will begin with discussions of contributions made to the Commonwealth by the Yankee and Italian communities.

The lectures will be held at the Science Auditorium, Harbor Campus at 8 p.m.

The first lecture will be "The Yankee Contribution" on Wednesday, March 21 with William L. Saltonstall of Manchester, former State Senator and scion of the distinguished Saltonstall family, and Prof. Roger W. Prouty of the UMass/Boston History faculty.

The second lecture on Wednesday, April 18, will be given Hon. John Volpe, former Governor of the Commonwealth and Ambassador to Italy, and Prof. Gerald S. Volpe, Professor of Italian and French at UMass/Boston.

Mr. Saltonstall has been in the forefront serving community organizations, continuing a family tradition of public service. He was recently elected Chairman of the Board of Governors of New England Medical Center.

Prof. Prouty's teaching assignments include the History of Boston at the Harbor Campus. He is a member of the American Historical Association and the Conference on British Studies.

Former Governor Volpe is demonstrably proud of his Italo-American heritage. He has earned numerous awards for his contributions in promoting Italian culture in this country and American culture in Italy.

Anthems in New Tongues
Cont.

Prof. Volpe, no relation to the former governor, has been on the faculty of UMass/Boston since 1966 and is one of the leading faculty in promoting campus cultural events.

Chancellor's Award for
Distinguished Scholarship

On behalf of the Faculty Development Committee, Associate Provost Primo Vannicelli is calling attention to the Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Scholarship. The purpose of the Award is to honor UMB faculty for outstanding contributions in research, scholarship or artistic creativity. Two UMB faculty members will be selected for this award and will receive prizes of \$500 each, along with special recognition at Commencement.

Eligibility:

1. Full and part-time UMB faculty members are eligible upon nomination by colleagues.
2. Nominations and supporting materials must be submitted to the Faculty Development Committee (c/o Provost's Office) by April 10, 1979.
3. The materials must have appeared in print or must have been otherwise presented to the public during the calendar year 1978.

The Awards will be announced by the Chancellor at Commencement on June 3rd.

Public Forum Series

The College of Public and Community Service (CPCS) and the Boston Urban Observatory (BUO) are co-sponsoring a Spring Public Forum Series entitled Race, Class and Urban Conflict. The are to be held in the auditorium of the downtown center during April and early May, from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. The six weekly seminars are open to UMass/Boston students and the general public.

Prof. Michael Stone, of the Community Change and Housing Center of CPCS, and Prof. Joseph S. Slavet, Director of The Boston Urban Observatory, announced that Robert M. Coard, Executive Director of Action For Boston Community Development, Boston's Antipoverty Agency, and Alan Lupo, Journalist/Author and critic of Social Policy in Boston, will address the opening session on April 4th. Their overview of "Race, Class and Urban Conflict" issues in Boston will deal in a broad way with school segregation, neighborhood gentrification, job discrimination and other local manifestations of the forum theme.

Subsequent seminars will explore specific concerns within the general topic--education, jobs/income, neighborhoods/housing, and culture. Among the panelists for these sessions will be Professors Charles Willie and Nathan Glazer of Harvard University, Prof. Bennet Harrison of M.I.T., Representative Mel King of the South End, Chuck Turner of the Third World Jobs Clearing House and Dr. Jackie Mitchell of the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Public Forum Series Cont.

The dates of the seminars are:

April 4th (Wednesday), Overview;
April 11th (Wednesday), Education;
April 18th (Wednesday), Job/Income;
April 23rd (Monday), Housing/ Neighborhoods;
May 4th (Friday), Topic to be Announced

International Education

Prof. Richard Robbins, Sociology, represented UMass/ Boston at a conference on international education, in Washington last month. Sponsored by the Institute of International Education, the conference had as its theme: "International Education: The Global Context." More than 1000 educators and other specialists explored such problems as the financial threat to international exchange programs, the need for American support for the United Nations University in Japan, and new relationships with Third World countries including China.

Distinguished Lecture Series

The next in the Distinguished Lecture Series, sponsored by the Office of Graduate Studies is an address by Prof. Linda Gordon, History. Her talk is: "Why 19th-Century Feminists Opposed Contraception and 20th-Century Feminists Support It: A Study of Technology and Social Change."

The lecture is on Monday, March 26, at 3 p.m. in the Faculty Club lounge, Library. A reception will follow.

Consumer and Mental Health

The book by Prof. Brian Mishara, Psychology, Consumer's Guide to Mental Health, was recipient of a "Distinguished Contribution" award in the book category of the American Psychological Association 1978 Media Awards Competition: it "...has made a noteworthy contribution to the public's understanding of psychology." This book, which originally appeared as a Times Books hardcover, is scheduled to be printed on April 1 as a Signet Paperback. This book, which originally appeared as a Times Books hardcover, is scheduled to be printed on April 1 as a Signet Paperback. This book is co-authored by Robert Patterson.

Psychology of Social Issues

Prof. Bernard M. Kramer, Psychology, announces the continuation of the Lecture Series on the Psychology of Social Issues. All lectures will be held on Tuesday during the free period from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in the Small Science Auditorium (first floor Science Building). Speakers and topics for upcoming lectures:

Tuesday, March 27, Freda Garcia, Director of Consultation and Education Program, Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center, THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY OF GREATER BOSTON.

Tuesday, April 3, Sandra Howell, Associate Professor Behavioral Science, MIT, ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY AND AGING.

Tuesday, April 10, Curtis Banks, Senior Research Scientist and Director of Social Learning Laboratory, Educational Testing Service, ACHIEVEMENT MOTIVATION IN BLACK CHILDREN.

Tuesday, April 17, Thomas F. Pettigrew, Professor of Social Psychology, Harvard, SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY OF RACE RELATIONS.